

MASTER S. JOHN
HIS
SPEECH
IN
PARLIAMENT
On Munday, the 17th of
January.

CONCERNING
The Charge of Treason then exhibi-
bited to the BISHOPS, Formerly ac-
cused by the House of Commons,
Anno Domini, 1641.



LONDON,
Printed for R.B. in the Yeare, 1641.

MASTER & JONNY

SPEECH

PARLIAMENT

On Monday

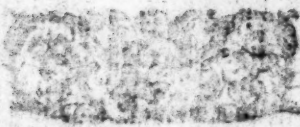
CONCERNING

The Charge of

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the House of Commons

1841



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Printed by R. B. and W. B. 1841



MR. S^r JOHN
HIS SPEECH IN
PARLIAMENT.

MR. SPEAKER,

His Charge of Treason which hath beene now read unto these Persons accused, is (as I conceive) a sufficient Confirmation of our former Accusation; not onely their indeavours to procure their own desires in an unlawfull and irregular manner but the very Action of their Attempt proves them guilty of treason: this treason wherwith they stand charged is matter of Fact not to bee answered by witnesses or circumstances, but by answering guilty or not; and being proved against them, to receive their sentence: This manner of proceeding is congruent to the Common Lawes of this Land; from which Parliamentary proceedings in such cases never derogates.

These Persons some of them have wisely recanted their Fact, and submitted themselves to this House representing the whole Body Politicke of

this Kingdome, and the rest doth yet stand in their error presuming to undertake to justify their Actions: and the chiefeſt inducer of theſe to continue their Reſolutions, is generally conceived to be the now Biſhop of Yorke, late Biſhop of Lincolne. This man *Maſter Speaker*, hath beene well reputed and thought of by moſt of this Kingdome and by this Honourable Houſe enlarged from his long imprisonment formerly indured in the Tower, reſtored to his former Dignity and Honour, admitted to his place in the Lords Houſe: what good then might this Prelate have done to his Countrey ſo well reſpected & favoured by moſt of the Lords, and his vote with them well eſteemed, by his endeavours to avert the intentions of the reſt of the Biſhops, for putting in execution their ſuture wicked Actions, by endeavouring to ſettle true Religion and puniſh delinquents in the ſame, he always ſeeming to be the beſt affected of any in theſe times of that function, in places of authority and jurisdiction in the Church. And by endeavouring rightly to informe His Maſteſty and his Lords, that did but a little diſſavor the ſame, concerning the Antiquity and purity of the true Proteſtant Religion, the danger and ſinne in innovating the ſame, and not the Antiquity of Biſhops and their power in Eccleſiaſticall cauſes, nay in civill as well as Eccleſiaſticall, that in the firſt their jurisdiction was the chiefeſt & higheſt, yea above the *Kings*; that in the ſecond they were in Courts of civil judicature, if by
the

the King called thereunto, of equall power with the Privy Counsell and Judges of the Land, nay their Votcs must be above & against them all to passe for sentences and right judgements; no opposition or contradiction must be against them by any of what degree soever; nay so high and prond were these Prelates grown that they dare advēture to abridge & abrogate the Kings royall prerogative in issuing forth warrants & proces in their severall Courts, which ever was used to be read, *Carolus Dei Gratia &c.* Now must be read, *Gulielmus Divina providentia Dei, Archiepiscopus &c.* In their names must writs and procs issue, and not in the Kings. I say these things should not have beene by this Prelate defended and maintained, but rejected & detected; Voted against as well by himselfe as the rest of the Lords of that House, and the offenders herein as well by his endeavours as other the faithful Counsellors of the State, brought to deserved punishment: but contrarywise this Bishop hath not only refused to consent to the rectifying things amisse in the Clergie, but opposed the same; hath not onely beene retrograde in voting for their punishment that have abused both themselves, professions and power, but obstinately Voted against their punishment, hath not only refused to assent to regulate the office of Episcopacy; but likewise opposed the same, and in persuance of these his Actions hath as it is strongly to be presumed, drawn many of the other Bishops to be of his resolution and evill o-

mod. obsequ. vtilit. br A 3 vtilit. ad. to. mod. pi-

opinion, that the Parliament cannot consist of the
 House of *Lords* temporall and *Commons*: although
 they cannot produce any Presidents or *Act* of *Par-*
liament; that there was ever foure degrees congru-
 ent to the holding of a *Parliament*, as of necessity
 since we professed the *Protestant Religion*, and ad-
 mitted of a Reformation in this Kingdome; but
 onely in the time of Superstition; in which time
 the Clergie increased to that height and Dignitie
 they are now attained unto, and procured to them-
 selves the denomination of *Lords spirituall*; but
 neither of late, nor (*ab initio*) it was so, onely
 three degrees of Councillors have bene sufficient
 in *Parliament* to regulate the Affaires of this King-
 dome, and make Lawes for the good government
 thereof. Indeed, I confesse that it may be as ne-
 cessary for *Bishops* to sit in *Parliament* to give their
 advice in Points of *Divinity* concerning *Religion*,
 as Judges sit there to give their opinions in Points
 of Law concerning judicature; but otherwise it
 is no way expedient, but altogether unnecessary,
 (as I under favour conceive) either to have their
 Votes concerning *Religion*, or any wayes to inter-
 meddle, or give advice touching temporall Af-
 faires. And thus having shewed you the first step
 to this Treason, their opinion of the inconsistency
 of *Parliament*, without their assistance; I come to
 the second Step; That a *Parliament* is forced and
 illegally assembled, if the same doth continue to
 agitate or determine of any thing whatsoever in
 the absence of the *Bishops*. And lastly, which com-
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(5.)

pletes and makes up the whole Treason, their protestation against the proceedings of the *Parliament* in their absence : These things have beene sufficiently already debated on, and concluded by general vote to be high Treason. Therefore I conclude, having onely shewed you in what manner I conceive is best to proceed to their tryall (by the rules of the Common Law joyned with the power and wisdom of the *Parliament* for this their Fact of Treason,) and also shewed you divers of their enormous and wicked Actions, making much for prooffe of their Ambitious and treacherous intentions from the beginning; humbly leaving the same to the further consideration of this Honourable House, and desire we may prefix a certaine day within some short time, for the finall determination of their triall.

FINIS.
